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PATENT APPLICATION ! JC03 Rec'd PCT/PTO 28 NOV 2001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Guy AZAM et al. )  
 Appln. No. : 09/926,086 ) Group A.U. 3728  
 I.A. Filed : December 22, 2000 ) Examiner Unknown  
 For : TIGHT SHOE LACE-UP DEVICE )

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### INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
 Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 CFR 1.56 and in accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, the following information is brought to the attention of the Examiner for his or her consideration during the examination of the instant application.

The following documents were cited in a search report in the international PCT application (PCT/FR00/03661) upon which the instant application is based. A copy of the search report and a copy of an annex thereto, indicating "family member" documents, are attached.

German Patent Publication No. 197 10 702 (HANSEN et al.), published on September 17, 1998, is cited as being a document that is particularly pertinent (i.e., a category "X" document) with regard to the invention recited in claims 1 and 4-7 of Applicants' aforementioned international application, and as being a document that is pertinent in combination with one or more other such documents (i.e., a category "Y" document) with regard to the invention recited in claim 3 of Applicants' aforementioned international application. The entirety of DE '702 is cited as being pertinent.

U.S. Patent No. 4,791,702 (McVEY), issued on December 20, 1998, is cited as being a document that is pertinent in combination with one or more other such documents (i.e., a category "Y" document) with regard to the invention recited in claim 3 of Applicants' aforementioned international application. The entirety of US '702 is cited as being pertinent.

European Patent Publication No. 1 034 712 (SALOMON S.A.), published on September 13, 2000, is cited as being a document that is particularly pertinent (i.e., a category "X" document) with regard to the invention recited in claims 1 and 2 of Applicants' aforementioned international application. The entirety of EP '712 is cited as being pertinent.

European Patent Publication No. 0 923 886 (SALOMON S.A.), published on June 23, 1999, is cited as being a document that is particularly pertinent (i.e., a category "X" document) with regard to the invention recited in claims 1, 2, 4, and 8-10 of Applicants' aforementioned international application. Claim 1 and Fig. 1 of EP '886 are cited as being pertinent.

U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0025434 (FELLOUHE), published on October 4, 2001, is a family member of EP '886.

French Patent Publication No. 2 473 280 (DECAMP), published on July 17, 1981, is cited as being a document that is particularly pertinent (i.e., a category "X" document) with regard to the invention recited in claims 1, 2, 5, and 7 of Applicants' aforementioned international application. The claims and Fig. 1 of FR '280 are cited as being pertinent.

German Patent Publication (Gebrauchsmuster) No. 87 14 500 (VÖLKL & CO. KG SPORTSCHUHFABRIK), published on December 23, 1987, is cited as being a document that is pertinent to the general state of the art (i.e., a category "A" document) with regard to the invention recited in claims 1, 7, and 8 of Applicants' aforementioned international application. The entirety of DE '500 is cited as being pertinent.

U.S. Reissue Patent No. 31,052 (ADAMS), issued on October 12, 1982, is cited as being a document that is pertinent to the general state of the art (i.e., a category "A" document)

with regard to the invention recited in claims 1 and 6 of Applicants' aforementioned international application. The entirety of US '052 is cited as being pertinent.

U.S. Patent No. 4,200,998 (ADAMS), issued on May 6, 1980, is identified on the aforementioned search report as being a family member of US '052.

U.S. Patent No. 5,956,823 (BOREL), issued on September 28, 1999, is cited as being a document that is pertinent to the general state of the art (i.e., a category "A" document) with regard to the invention recited in claims 1 and 5 of Applicants' aforementioned international application. The entirety of US '823 is cited as being pertinent.

In addition to the aforementioned documents that were cited in the search report of Applicants' international application, the following documents (and family member documents) are brought to the Examiner's attention as being pertinent for reasons mentioned in the specification of the instant application.

French Patent Publication No. 2 752 686 (SALOMON S.A.), published on March 6, 1998, is pertinent for reasons mentioned in the specification of the instant application, where it is cited on page 1, line 16.

U.S. Patent No. 5,979,080 (BORSOI), issued on November 9, 1999, is a family member of FR '686.

French Patent Publication No. 2 706 743 (SALOMON S.A.), published on December 30, 1994, is pertinent for reasons mentioned in the specification of the instant application, where it is cited on page 1, line 24.

U.S. Patent No. 5,477,593 (LEICK), issued on December 26, 1995, is a family member of FR '743.


French Patent Publication No. 2 757 026 (SALOMON S.A.), published on June 19, 1998, is pertinent for reasons mentioned in the specification of the instant application, where it is cited on page 4, line 11. Also, FR '026 is a family member of the above-mentioned US '823.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.98 and MPEP 609, a copy of each of the above-mentioned documents is enclosed herewith. Further, each is listed on the attached PTO-1449 form to permit the Examiner to indicate his or her consideration thereof.

The Examiner is requested to consider the documents cited above and to confirm such consideration by appropriately initialling the listings on the PTO-1449 form and returning a copy of the initialled form to Applicants.

Any comments or questions concerning this application can be directed to the undersigned at the telephone or fax number given below.

Respectfully submitted,  
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